

Dalmatians set new records at National Carriage Dog Trials

THE TWO Champions at this year's National Fenix Carriage Dog Trials on 11th July each set a new record for the sport.

Tim Stafford's Todd (Parana Perfect Prince: Dalehouse Nighthawk at Vecturacanis x Weaver the Diva) became Road Dog Champion after passing the highest level of Trials obedience and completing a 40km vetted endurance run. These Trials saw the first dogs ever to become qualified at Gold level as both Carriage and Road Dogs and Todd was one of them.



● Tim Stafford rides Monty with Todd (Parana Perfect Prince) out on the course to complete 40km and become Road Dog Champion.

Maura Reade's Domino (Chandhally C'est la Vie: Fr Ch Troilus de Puech Barryre x Chandhally Snow Queen) became Carriage Dog Champion following on from his qualification at Gold Carriage Dog at the Irish Trials earlier this year. Domino becomes the first carriage dog to complete Gold in two countries.



● Carriage Dog Champion was Maura Reade's Domino (Chandhally C'est la Vie) who has now completed a Gold test in two countries; Maura drives Widget.



● Anne Dickens' rides Mo with Munin (Washakie Iowa) in the speed exercise – at 9.5 years Munin became the oldest dog ever to complete the 40kms course and qualify at Gold.

Anne Dickens' mother son pair also qualified as Gold Road Dogs. At 9 and a half years old, Anne's bitch Munin (Washakie Iowa: Solar Eclipse of Washakie x Ch Washakie Summer Dance JW) is the oldest Dalmatian to qualify at Gold level and more than proves that a well constructed and fit dog can continue to work as a senior veteran. Her son Fenris (Loki the Snow King: Ch Fincham Trade Wind JW x Washakie Iowa), who qualified as a Gold Carriage Dog in 2009 became

the other dog to qualify at Gold level in both disciplines.

No pressure

Other Gold qualifiers this time were Milo (Gullinbusti Opal Snow: Ch Fincham Trade Wind JW x Washakie Iowa), another of Munin's offspring, owned by Donna Simmons of Kent, who qualified as a Gold Carriage Dog with Donna handling from the groom's position on the carriage. Three other dogs passed their Gold Carriage Dog certificates, which is the Gold obedience without the endurance. Splash (Plentycoups Sapphire: Dalesbred Larking Around at Deovolante x Shining Emma) owned by Miranda Purves; Skittle (Polidot Thyme n Motion: Skywings Challenger x Polidot Golden Myhle); and Nugget (Polidot Vanilla Ice: Dalspa Liquid Gold for Polidot x Kamah Myhle with Polidot) both owned by Gail Cottenill.

There were four first time qualifiers as Silver Road Dogs with the class won by Julie Swindells' Clover (Pjasdals Cwite Sure: Takesti Moondancer x Caldecacre Cwite Contrary at Pjasdals) and two previ-

ously qualified Silver Carriage Dogs entering again. Of seven Bronze entries there were four thrilled qualifiers. These novice classes are a great way to sample the Trials without too much pressure on dog or handler.

The purpose of the Trials is to provide a modern competition through which to demonstrate the Dalmatian dog's traditional role as a companion to horses and carriages in past times. It is both an endurance and obedience event and all competitors must do a basic obedience test with their dog, from horse or carriage, as part of the Trial. The Bronze classes require a 10kms run, the Silver 20kms and the Gold a staggering 40kms. All dogs are vetted at start and finish and receive a vet score as part of their overall score.

The Trials were held at Lincomb Equestrian in Stourport on Severn with a beautifully presented course by landowners Rebecca and Tony Symonds. It was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend which included a fun scent tracking exercise for all the dogs on the Sunday after the Trials.

The British Carriage Dog Society has a series of displays and events throughout the year, details of which may be found on www.carriagedog.org. For more information contact Anne Dickens 01622 892494



● Donna Simmons handles from the groom's position to qualify Milo (Gullinbusti Opal Snow) as a Gold Carriage Dog and take the Grooms' Award; John Mapleden drives Axle and Diesel.



● Best Rescue dog Cato won the Bronze Groom Handler class with Neil Dutson handling and wife Pat driving.



● Clover (Pjasdals Cwite Sure) won the Silver Road Dog class for Julie Swindells riding Dudley

